

Memorandum

Date: May 20, 1997

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director



Subject: Resolution of Affected Environment and No Action Alternative

We are seeking concurrence from CALFED Agencies on our descriptions of the Affected Environment and No Action Alternative for the Bay-Delta Long Term Program Programmatic EIR/EIS. CALFED has undertaken an intensive process to develop information for, respond to comments and adjust our description of the Affected Environment, the No-Action Alternative, and the cumulative impact analysis. As part of this effort, meetings were held and various materials were prepared and distributed to CALFED agencies, stakeholders, and the public for review and comment. The following list provides a summary of these meetings and materials:

- March 27, 1996: proposed approach for preparing affected environment/existing conditions description;
- May 20, 1996: discussion paper outlining CALFED's proposed approach to developing the No-Action Alternative and identifying projects for the cumulative impact analysis;
- July 1, 1996: workshop packet describing proposed affected environment/existing conditions resource categories and time periods to be covered in describing the affected environment/existing conditions, projects in the No-Action Alternative and cumulative impact analysis, and proposed operational criteria;
- July 11, 1996: workshop presenting the information in the July 1, 1996 workshop packet;
- September 27, 1996: transmittal and report dated September 18, 1996 presenting the detailed results of the No-Action Alternative screening effort, adjustments to affected environment/existing conditions resource categories and time periods, and responses to written and oral comments received in response to the July 1, 1996 workshop packet and July 11, 1996 workshop;

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

- September 27, 1996: first workgroup meeting to discuss operational and regulatory assumptions for affected environment/existing conditions and the No-Action Alternative;
- October 1, 1996: release of draft affected environment reports describing Delta resources to CALFED agencies for review;
- October 11, 1996: second workgroup meeting to discuss operational and regulatory assumptions for affected environment/existing conditions and the No-Action Alternative;
- November 15, 1996: third workgroup meeting to discuss operational and regulatory assumptions for affected environment/existing conditions and the No-Action Alternative;
- January 22, 1997: transmittal and report dated December 30, 1996 summarizing results of the September 27 to November 15, 1996 meetings, and a second report dated December 31, 1996 responding to comments received on the September 18, 1996 report;
- March 17, 1997: presentation to CALFED Management Team of significant issues which arose during development of Affected Environment, No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis; and
- April 14, 1997: presentation to ClubFed members at Federal agency retreat.

In trying to move this work on the Affected Environment, No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis to a conclusion, we have split our results into two packages to allow for a more focused review. The first package (attached) centers on the Resource Categories to be described in the Affected Environment, the screening criteria for the selection of the projects that would make up the No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis and a list of projects that would make up the No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis. The second package will be distributed in about two weeks. It will contain the Operational and Regulatory Criteria and Modeling Assumptions for both the Affected Environment and the No Action Alternative.

Enclosed is a packet entitled "CALFED Bay-Delta Program Resource Categories for the Programmatic EIR/EIS". The packet augments the list of Affected Environment resource categories presented in the attachment. Also enclosed are three reports discussing the projects screened and selected for the No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis.

As a reminder, the description of the Affected Environment is limited to ongoing efforts and existing resources. It will not include any future actions or operations. On the other hand, the No Action Alternative will focus on activities, provided the activities meet specific screening

criteria, expected to occur in the future. In reviewing the projects being proposed for the No Action Alternative, it will become apparent that the projects selected are either underway or will be very shortly.

We would appreciate your concurrence or identification of specific issues which still need work and recommendations for their resolution. We will discuss agency comments and recommendations for resolving any concerns at the June CALFED Management meeting. Comments should be sent to Mr. Rick Breitenbach at the above letterhead address by June 6, 1997. Should you have any questions, please give Rick a call at (916) 657-2666.

Attachment
Enclosures (4)

cc: CALFED PCT Liaisons - Number of copies in parenthesis
CA Resources Agency (2 copies); CA Fish and Game (5 copies); CA Food and Agriculture (2 copies); CA Water Resources (5 copies); SWRCB (2 copies); Corps of Engineers (3 copies), Bureau of Reclamation (5 copies); Fish and Wildlife Service (5 copies); US EPA (5 copies); Geological Survey (2 copies); NMFS (2 copies); and David Cottingham, Department of Interior

CALFED Agency Attorneys - 1 copy to each of the following individuals:
Craig Manson and Nancy Murray, CA Dept of Fish and Game
Maureen Gorsen, CA Resources Agency
Mary Gillespie, Corps of Engineers
David Anderson and David Sandino, CA Dept of Water Resources
Dana Jacobsen and David Nawi, Solicitors Office, Dept of Interior
Tom Hagler, US Environmental Protection Agency
Barbara Leidigh, CA State Water Resources Control Board
Mary Scoonover and Marian Moe, CA Office of the Attorney General